

time, as previously remarked, members who have suggestions to offer should feel free to send them to the Special Committee.*

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Antivivisection Bill.—The antivivisection measure that is introduced at practically every session of the legislature has finally made its appearance, with Charles J. Wagner† as its sponsor. In the legislature of two years ago, a bill for antivivisection was introduced by former Senator Fellom, whose very partisan advocacy led to sufficient reaction, in his own senatorial district, to make for his downfall when, last fall, he came up for reelection in San Francisco. The Fellom bill was discussed on page 379 of the May, 1933, issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE; and we are informed that the draft of this year's proposed legislation is along somewhat similar lines. The Hearst newspapers in San Francisco and Los Angeles are laying the foundations of their usual favorable publicity for this type of legislation, and interviews, with photographs of actresses, etc., designed to influence public opinion, have already appeared. The Ivy articles,‡ which were printed in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, should be of value in giving our legislators a true insight of the questions and principles at issue, and California Medical Association members who desire copies of these Ivy articles should send their requests to the Association secretary.

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A. B. 2397: State Medicine via County Route—For Hospitalization, and also Partial Professional Service.—Assembly Bill 2397, introduced on March 27, 1935, by Mr. S. L. Heisinger of Fresno (who gives his occupation in the Assembly roster as that of a farmer), would add a new section to the political code. Indeed, if enacted, it would practically establish state medicine by permitting counties, or groups of counties, "to provide systems of hospital insurance available to the residents of their respective counties," whereby, "In any such system, every subscriber thereto shall be entitled to the choice of his own doctor or physician, and shall pay such doctor's or physician's fees for services rendered; but, in the cases of childbirth or of indigency of the subscriber, the board of supervisors shall provide medical care and treatment at county expense."

The bill further provides that if such moneys received from subscribers prove insufficient to pay for hospitalization and professional services, then the taxpayers are to make up the deficit. Maternity service is evidently to be free, without exception, to all citizens of a county. The county, in other words, is to pay for the medical care of indigents and of maternity patients, but there are no stipulations that members of attending staffs are to be compensated for professional services rendered. To cap the climax, to this astonishing measure is added an innocuous provision that a

* For report of the Special Committee in the "Pre-Convention Bulletin," see page 317 of this issue of CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE.

† In the "Assembly Weekly History," Assemblyman Charles J. Wagner is listed as business manager of the Butchers' Union, with home address at 1818 Cornell Drive, Alameda. The number of the bill is A. B. 2041.

‡ The Ivy articles were printed in the October, 1934, issue, page 247; and the November, 1934, issue, page 325.

county hospitalization-professional service plan may be abolished if the income received from subscribers and tax funds be insufficient for its support!—leaving one to wonder as to when will the tax funds be insufficient?

The proposed bill, as printed in full on page 270, is not lengthy, and deserves a careful reading. Take time to give it such personal attention. The longer you think about its provisions, the more you will be impressed with both its scope and its dangers.

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A Bill to Safeguard the Granting of Professional Degrees.—The League for the Maintenance of Professional Rights has been instrumental in introducing A. B. No. 1765 (Cronin), which measure is designed to prevent, in California, the incorporation of institutions and organizations not having sufficient material or scholastic resources, and their right to grant professional degrees. Such incorporations can easily become a racket.* The laxity now existent in California statutes, pertaining to this matter, is a sad reflection on so great a commonwealth. Whether the bill will go on to passage, is a question. In any event, the proposed law and its need will be called to the attention of the universities, colleges and educational groups of the State, in the hope of enlisting further study and full coöperation when the legislature meets two years hence. However, since no one knows what a jury or legislature will do, it is even possible that the wished-for A. B. 1765 may be rewarded with passage. The law is very much needed.

PROPOSAL TO LOWER STATE COMPENSATION FUND FEES

Newspaper Articles and Official Report Not in Line.—At the 231st meeting of the Council held on March 1, 1935, the subject of proposed reductions in professional fees by the State Compensation Fund, as indicated in newspaper interviews with officers of that bureau, was discussed at some length, and resolutions were adopted, which were to be forwarded to the Fund officers. The suggested necessity of reducing the fees seemed queer because of the optimistic outlook presented in an official communication, sent out under date of February 20, from which the following excerpts are taken:

"In a report submitted to T. A. Reardon, Director of the Department of Industrial Relations and chairman of the Industrial Accident Commission, by C. B. Day, manager of the State Compensation Insurance

* For instance, read the first item in the California State Board of Medical Examiners column, page 336, and which is here reprinted:

"Reports from the office of the Secretary of State relate that Percy Purviance, D. C., who, according to the records of the Board of Medical Examiners, has operated the Berkeley School of Chiropractic and the Golden Gate College of Chiropractic, recently added more schools to his list when, on December 23, 1934, he incorporated the Mount Vernon Chiropractic College, Corporation No. 160888, and on January 14, 1935, incorporated the International University of Naturopathy and Chiropractic, Corporation No. 161070, capital stock \$100, divided into 100 shares of \$1 each. The records indicate that both of these corporations state among their purposes is 'to give diplomas.' It is evident that legislation passed in 1927, 1929, and 1931, attempting to regulate the incorporation and operation of degree-conferring institutions, which have neither physical equipment nor financial responsibility, has proved ineffective."

Fund, material gains are noted over the previous year (by the California State Compensation Fund).

"The premium income for 1934 totaled \$5,608,792, an increase of \$1,384,981, or 33 per cent, over 1933. Approximately twenty-six thousand employers patronize the Fund, or one-third of the insured payroll in the State. While the new business written increased materially. . . .

"The financial position of the Fund is now the best in its history. . . .

"The Fund's surplus increased \$24,400, during the year, to a total of \$1,965,346.

"This surplus and the adequate reserves invested in high-grade securities are evidence of the Fund's financial ability to meet all its obligations to policyholders and their employees, and to meet any contingency which may arise."

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Resolution of the Industrial Section of the Los Angeles County Medical Association.—The Sections on Industrial Medicine of the San Francisco, Alameda and Los Angeles County Medical Associations sent resolutions of protest to the Fund officers, the Los Angeles resolutions reading as follows:

WHEREAS, We are advised that the State Compensation Insurance Fund has applied for a hearing before the Industrial Accident Commission for a reduction ranging from 25 to 50 per cent in the fee schedules for professional services rendered industrial accident patients; and

WHEREAS, The fee schedule for professional services to industrial patients is already much below that for similar work in private practice; being in fact so low that the fees granted are really less than they should be when all the responsibilities of the Fund, the workers, and the physicians are honestly taken into account; and

WHEREAS, For the Fund to lower its fee schedule still more would work a gross injustice to physicians (who as a class and as individuals are also workers, and who as a class give gratuitous service, which if translated into money values far exceeds that given by any other group, to the care of indigent citizens); and

WHEREAS, Actuarial records increasingly show, with the passing of years, that the best investment for the economic administration of an insurance carrier (and that includes the State Fund) is a personnel on the industrial panels of the ablest type of physicians, since through their services there are a lesser amount of temporary and permanent disabilities and, consequently, lesser costs to the insurance carriers; and

WHEREAS, The organized medical profession of the State as represented by the California Medical Association and its component county societies is opposed to such a reduction of fees, because so to do (1) would be to the injury of the working men and women of California who come under the jurisdiction of the Workmen's Compensation Act; (2) be to the detriment and disadvantage of the State Treasury and to the State Fund; and (3) would work a gross injustice upon the members of the very medical profession through the efficient services of whose members much of the past success of the State Compensation Insurance Fund has been due; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That on behalf of the organized medical profession of California the Industrial Accident Section of the Los Angeles County Medical Association requests the Industrial Accident Commission to take no such action as has been proposed by the State Compensation Insurance Fund; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to His Excellency, Governor Frank Merriam; to each of the Fund commissioners; to the manager of the Fund; to the California Medical Association and to each of its component county societies; and to the official publication of the California Medical Association.

Resolutions of the California Medical Association's Council.—The Council of the California Medical Association also passed resolutions; and because they cite and emphasize some of the abuses now existing, they are here reprinted in full:

WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the California Medical Association that effort is being made by the State Compensation Insurance Fund and other insurance companies writing Workmen's Compensation insurance to reduce fees for industrial accident surgery; and

WHEREAS, In the past the fee schedule of the Industrial Accident Commission has not been adhered to in all instances; and

WHEREAS, The Industrial Accident fee schedule provides such moderate charges for professional services rendered in accident cases, that to reduce the same would result in great injustice not only to the medical profession, but particularly to citizens suffering from industrial injuries (in that such excessively low fees would undoubtedly lead to inadequate service, thus making for longer temporary disability, as well as more and greater permanent disabilities among injured workmen, with resultant money loss to insurance companies that would be in excess of the sum saved through lower fee table for professional services); and

WHEREAS, Certain physicians and surgeons, some being members of the California Medical Association, have been guilty of cutting fees below the official fee schedule, and/or have made a practice of underbidding for industrial accident work other members of our profession and/or have been guilty of rebating to the insurance companies; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Council of the California Medical Association:

1. That the Council make strong protest to the industrial Accident Commission against reduction of fees;

2. That the members of the medical profession be advised of their responsibility in the matter;

3. That the fee schedule be reviewed and adequate arguments for adherence thereto be emphasized; and

4. That the Industrial Accident Commission be requested to adhere to the fee schedule itself in all its departments, and to require recognition of the schedule of insurance companies; and be it further

Resolved, That investigation of and methods for correction of these abuses be at once undertaken by the California Medical Association Committee on Industrial Accident Practice, with the least possible delay.

SICKNESS SURVEY OF THE UTAH STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Utah State Medical Association Makes a Preliminary Report.—A preliminary report, to be used in a survey of medical services and facilities of the State of Utah, was recently made by its Committee on Medical Economics, Public Policy and Relations. This prefatory communication consists of some thirty-four pages of typewritten facts and comments which should be of special interest to California physicians; particularly so, since the California Medical Association is making its own somewhat extensive survey of sickness incidence.

In its introduction the Utah report calls attention to the fact that, because of the peculiar geographic and economic conditions existing in that state, it would be quite possible to gather factual information considerably different from what may be found in other sections of the United States.

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Geographic and Population Features of Utah which Influence Medical Practice.—For those who are not acquainted with the geographic areas in-